



John Williams photo

# FISHING REGULATIONS

## NEW THIS YEAR

The items highlighted here are a quick overview of the changes to this year's regulations. **Changes from last season are printed in bright blue** in complete detail throughout this guide to assist you in noticing those changes.

### FISHING

- **No harvest of flathead catfish in A.J. Jolly Lake in Campbell County.**
- **A 1 fish daily creel limit with a 15-inch minimum size limit on brook trout in the Cumberland River below Wolf Creek Dam. The river will receive 10,000 brook trout in 2011.**
- **For regulatory purposes, the boundary of Elkhorn Creek in Franklin County is now a permanent marker just below the first riffle upstream from its confluence with the Kentucky River.**
- **A 15-fish daily creel limit on blue and channel catfish on Taylorsville Lake. One fish of the daily creel limit may be greater than 25 inches long.**
- **There is now uniform daily limits on**

**the lakes enrolled in the Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINS) lakes. Daily creel limits on these lakes are: five rainbow trout, four catfish, 15 sunfish and one largemouth bass 15 inches or longer to keep. See special regula-**

**tions for a list of FINS lakes.**

- **Unlimited horsepower on boat motors at Lake Malone.**

### NEED A PLACE TO FISH?

Find new fishing information on Kentucky waterbodies by visiting [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). Click on the "Fishing" tab, then on "Where to Fish" and lastly "Find A Place to Fish." Anglers may search lakes, rivers and creeks for boat ramps and access points, what species are available and maps of how to get there plus other useful information.

Also under the "Where to Fish" tab is the 2011 Fishing Forecast. This report details the anticipated fishing success for each species in major waterbodies based on population samples conducted by KDFWR fisheries biologists.



# STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

Some waterbodies have different size and creel limits, please refer to the "Special Fishing Regulations" section for more details.

SPORT FISH SPECIES		Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Minimum Size Limit
BLACK BASS	Largemouth Bass	6*	12*	12"
	Smallmouth Bass	6*	12*	12"
	Kentucky (Spotted) Bass	6*	12*	none
	Coosa Bass	6*	12*	none
Rock Bass		15	30	none
Redear Sunfish		20	40	none
Walleye, sauger and their hybrids		6*	12*	15" on walleye and hybrids; none on sauger
Muskellunge		1	2	30"
Chain Pickerel		5	10	none
Northern Pike		none	none	none
White & hybrid striped bass		15**	30**	none**
Striped bass		5	10	15"
Yellow bass		30	60	none
Crappie (black & white)		30*	60*	none
Rainbow trout		Daily limit 8, only 3 may be brown trout***		none
Brown trout				12"
Brook trout		Catch and release only		

\* Singly or combined; a total of these species

\*\* No more than 5 fish in the daily creel limit may be more than 15 inches long.

\*\*\* Possession limit is double the daily creel limit for these species.

Fish not included in this list are considered rough fish. There are no size or creel limits for rough fish, unless special regulations apply. For daily creel and fishing license purposes, one fishing day equals one calendar day.

## STATEWIDE SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS (301 KAR 1:060, 1:201; KRS 150.010)

Fishing season is open year-round in Kentucky, except on waterfowl refuges and as otherwise noted in this guide. Statewide size and creel limits apply to all Kentucky waters, public and private, except some waters have different limits (see, "Special Fishing Regulations"). The Kentucky Trout Waters information is now incorporated into this guide. Please see page 26.

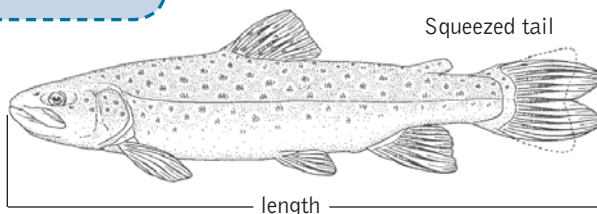
**Q:** How is a daily creel limit different than a possession limit?

**A:** The daily creel limit is the number of a particular sport fish species you may keep in one day's fishing. A possession limit is two times the daily creel limit for all fish species with a daily creel limit and excludes processed fish.

## MEASURING FISH

(301 KAR 1:201)

Measure all fish from the tip of the lower jaw (closed) to the tip of the tail with fish laid flat on rule with tail lobes squeezed together. Undersized fish must be returned immediately to the waters from which they were taken in the best possible physical condition.



*Did you know?*

Camping is prohibited on KDFWR owned or managed lakes.

# SPECIAL FISHING REGULATIONS

(301 KAR 1:080, 1:180, 1:201, 2:222 4:100, 4:200E; KRS 150.010, 150.025)

## SPECIAL REGULATION WATERS LISTED ALPHABETICALLY

The public waters listed below have different size and/or creel limits than statewide regulations allow. Statewide size and creel limits apply unless otherwise mentioned below. Special boating regulations are listed in the Boating section of this guide.

Some privately owned waters may have special size and creel limits as posted by signs.

### FINs LAKES:

Lakes in the Fishing In Neighborhoods (FINs) program now have uniform regulations for daily creel and size limits:

- **Rainbow Trout:** 5-fish daily limit.
- **Catfish:** 4-fish daily limit.
- **Sunfish:** 15-fish daily limit.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish daily limit.

The following FINs lakes are now under these special regulations:

Anderson County Community Park Lake (Anderson County), Bloomfield Park Lake (Nelson County), Bob Noble Park Lake (McCracken County), Brickyard Pond (Knox County), Cherokee Park Lake (Jefferson County), Easy Walker Park Pond (Montgomery County), Fisherman's Park Lakes (Jefferson County), Jack C. Fisher Park Lake (Daviness County), Kingdom Come State Park Lake (Harlan County), Lake Mingo (Jessamine County), Lake Pollywog (Grant County), Lower Sportman's Lake (Franklin County), Lusby Lake (Scott County), Martin County Lake (Martin County), Middleton Mills Long Pond and Shelterhouse Ponds (Kenton County), Mike Miller Park Lake (Marshall County), Miles Park Lake #4 (Jefferson County), Panther Creek Park Lake, (Daviness County), Prisoner's Lake (Kenton County), Scott County Park Lake (Scott County), Southgate Lake (Campbell County), Stein Community Park Lake (Campbell County), Three Springs Lake (Warren County), Tom Wallace Park Lake (Jefferson County), Upper Sportsman's Lake (Franklin County), Watterson

Park Lake (Jefferson County), Waverly Park Lake (Jefferson County), Yellow Creek Park Lake (Daviness County)

### A.J. JOLLY LAKE Campbell County

No harvest of flathead catfish.

### BARK CAMP CREEK Whitley County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

### BARKLEY, KENTUCKY LAKES (and their connecting canal)

- **Crappie:** 10-inch minimum size limit, 20 fish daily creel limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Sauger:** 14-inch minimum size limit.

### BARKLEY TAILWATER – See Cumberland River

### BARREN RIVER LAKE

The boundaries of Barren River Lake are from the dam upstream to the Hwy. 100 bridge, Long Creek to the Hwy. 100 bridge, Beaver Creek to the Hwy. 1297 bridge, Skaggs Creek to the Matthews Mill Road bridge and Peter Creek to the Peter Creek Road bridge.

- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit except 1 fish in the daily creel limit or 2 in the possession limit may be less than 15 inches long.

### BEAVER CREEK Wayne County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 in the section of Beaver Creek from the Hwy. 90 bridge upstream to the Hwy. 200 bridge must be immediately released. Only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

### BEAVER LAKE Anderson County

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

### BERT COMBS LAKE Clay County

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

### BESHEAR LAKE Caldwell County

- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

### BIG BONE CREEK Boone County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

### BOLTZ LAKE Grant County

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

### BRIGGS LAKE Logan County

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

### BUCKHORN LAKE

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Muskellunge:** 36-inch minimum size limit.
- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.

### BULLOCK PEN LAKE Grant and Boone counties

- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

### CANE CREEK Laurel County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

### CARNICO LAKE Nicholas County

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.



## CARPENTER LAKE Daviss County

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

## CARR CREEK LAKE

- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

## CARTER CAVES STATE PARK LAKE (also called Smokey Valley Lake)

Fishing during daylight hours only.  
Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** No minimum size limit, 6 fish daily creel limit.

## CASEY CREEK Trigg County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

## CAVE RUN LAKE

Gigging and snagging prohibited in the main lake and all tributaries up to the first riffle. The location of the first riffle may change depending on water levels.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 13 to 16-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass between 13 and 16 inches in length must be released immediately.
- **Smallmouth Bass:** 18-inch minimum size limit.
- **Muskellunge:** 36-inch minimum size limit.

## CEDAR CREEK LAKE Lincoln County

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 20-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish daily creel limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** No daily creel limit, 12-inch minimum size limit.

## CHIMNEY TOP CREEK Wolfe County

A 16-inch minimum size limit and 1 fish daily creel limit for brown trout and only artificial baits may be used.

## CLEAR CREEK Bell County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 shall be immediately released and only artificial baits may be

used during this period.

## CORINTH LAKE Grant County

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

## CUMBERLAND GAP NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

(301 KAR 1:035)

Special fishing regulations are in effect on Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. For complete fishing information on this area contact: Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, P.O. Box 1848, Middlesboro, KY 40965, phone (606) 248-2817.

## CUMBERLAND RIVER, (including Hatchery Creek) from Wolf Creek Dam to the Tennessee state line:

All licensed anglers must possess a trout permit on this portion of Cumberland River. This also includes Hatchery Creek and all tributaries up to the first riffle.

Anglers shall not cull trout by replacing a live trout in their possession with another trout. Once an angler holds a trout in their possession on this section of the Cumberland River, it counts toward the daily trout creel limit. Anglers may not attract or chum trout with bait, corn or other attractants designed to draw numbers of trout to a specific area. This includes all tributaries up to the first riffle and in Hatchery Creek.

- **Brown Trout:** 20-inch minimum size limit, 1 fish daily creel limit, also ap-

plies to all tributary streams.

- **Rainbow Trout:** 15 to 20-inch protective slot limit. All trout caught between 15 and 20 inches in length must be immediately released. Five fish daily creel limit, only one rainbow trout may be longer than 20 inches. Also applies to all tributary streams. **Until further notice, the daily creel limit is 10 fish. All other trout regulations remain the same.**
- **Brook Trout:** 1 fish daily creel limit with a 15-inch minimum size limit.

## CUMBERLAND RIVER from Lake Barkley Dam downstream to confluence with Ohio River

Gigging and snagging only permitted downstream of U.S. 62 bridge with a daily creel limit of 8 fish. Harvesting of sportfish by snagging is prohibited. All snagged or gilled rough fish including paddlefish, with the exception of shad, herring or Asian carp, shall be taken into possession and not be culled. Snagged or gilled fish must not be disposed of on the bank. Disposing of fish on the bank is littering and subject to a fine. See the gigging and snagging section on page 16 of this guide for additional information. Snagged paddlefish or their roe cannot be sold.

- **Sauger:** 14-inch minimum size limit.

## DALE HOLLOW LAKE

- **Crappie:** 10-inch minimum size limit, 15 fish daily creel limit.
- **Black Bass creel:** includes largemouth, smallmouth and Kentucky (spotted) bass – 5 fish daily creel limit on black bass singly or combined, only two of which may be smallmouth bass.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Smallmouth Bass:** 16 to 21-inch protective slot limit. One fish over 21 inches and one fish under 16 inches may be kept daily.
- **Sauger:** 14-inch minimum size limit, 10 fish daily creel limit.
- **Rainbow and Lake Trout:** April 1 - Oct. 31: no size limit, 7 fish daily creel limit (only 2 may be lake trout). Nov. 1 - March 31: 22-inch size limit, 2 fish daily limit, singly or combined.
- **Walleye:** 16-inch minimum size limit, 5 fish daily creel limit.

## DEWEY LAKE

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:**

**Q:** Is fishing allowed around a dock or a marina?

**A:** It depends. Public marinas on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lakes have contractual agreements that address lease space on public waters. The Corps presently allows the marina owners or operators to post signs that prohibit fishing within 150 feet of their floating structures. These agreements do not prohibit a person from fishing in their boat rental slip. This policy does not apply to privately owned boat docks on Corps lakes.

15-inch minimum size limit.

**DIX RIVER from Herrington Lake Dam downstream for two miles**  
Fishing with artificial lures or flies only.

**DOE RUN LAKE**  
**Kenton County**

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily creel limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** Four fish daily creel limit, no minimum size limit.

**DOG FORK**  
**Wolfe County**

Only artificial baits with a single hook shall be used. **Brook Trout** must be immediately released.

**EAST FORK INDIAN CREEK**  
**Menifee County**

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 shall be immediately released and only artificial bait shall be used during this period.

**ELKHORN CREEK in Franklin County from confluence of North and South forks downstream to Kentucky River:**

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 12 to 16-inch protective slot limit. Largemouth and smallmouth bass caught between 12 and 16 inches in length must be immediately released. Daily limit of 6 may include no more than 2 fish longer than 16 inches.
- **For regulatory purposes, the boundary of Elkhorn Creek is a permanent marker just below the first riffle upstream from its confluence with the Kentucky River.**

**ELK SPRING CREEK**  
**Wayne County**

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

**ELMER DAVIS LAKE**  
**Owen County**

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass between 12 and 15 inches in length must be released immediately.

- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

**FAGAN BRANCH LAKE (also called Lebanon City Lake)**  
**Marion County**

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth and smallmouth bass between 12 and 15 inches in length must be released immediately.

**FISHTRAP LAKE**

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.

**GENERAL BUTLER STATE PARK LAKE**  
**Carroll County**

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily creel limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit, no minimum size limit.

**GOLDEN POND (Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area)**

- **Channel Catfish:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 5 fish daily creel limit.

**GRAYSON LAKE**

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

**GREENBO LAKE**  
**Greenup County**

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Bluegill and other Sunfish:** 15 fish daily creel limit.

**GREEN RIVER LAKE**

- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.
- **Muskellunge:** 36-inch minimum size limit.

**GUIST CREEK LAKE**  
**Shelby County**

- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

**KENTUCKY, BARKLEY LAKES (and their connecting canal)**

- **Crappie:** 10-inch minimum size limit, 20 fish daily creel limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Sauger:** 14-inch minimum size limit.

**KENTUCKY LAKE TAILWATER**  
– see **Tennessee River**

**KINCAID LAKE**  
**Pendleton County**

- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

**LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**  
(301 KAR 1:031)

Special fishing regulations are in effect for ponds and small lakes within Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. For complete fishing information on this area, anglers should contact: Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Golden Pond, KY 42231, phone (270) 924-2000.

**LAKE BLYTHE**  
**Christian County**

- **Largemouth Bass:** 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass caught between 12 and 15 inches in length must be immediately released.

**LAKE CHUMLEY**  
**Lincoln County**

Fishing during daylight hours only.

**LAKE CUMBERLAND**

The boundaries of Lake Cumberland are defined as Cumberland Falls on the Cumberland River, Devils Jump on the Big South Fork, the Narrows of Rockcastle River and Laurel River Lake Dam on Laurel River.

- **Crappie:** 10-inch minimum size limit.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Smallmouth Bass:** 18-inch minimum size limit.
- **Striped Bass:** 24-inch minimum size limit, 2 fish daily creel limit.

**LAKE JERICO**  
**Henry County**

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

**LAKE MALONE**

- **Largemouth Bass:** 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass caught between 12 and 15 inches in length must be immediately released.
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

### LAKE SHELBY Shelby County

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily creel limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit, no minimum size limit.

### LAUREL RIVER LAKE

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Smallmouth Bass:** 18-inch minimum size limit, 2 fish daily creel limit.
- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit, 15 fish daily limit.

### LEARY LAKE Grant County

Fishing during daylight hours only.

- **Channel Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily creel limit.

### LEBANON CITY LAKE – see Fagan Branch Lake

### LEFT FORK, BEAVER CREEK Floyd County

All trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

### LINCOLN HOMESTEAD STATE PARK LAKE Washington County

Fishing during daylight hours only. Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Channel Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit.
- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

### MARION COUNTY LAKE

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

### McNEELY LAKE Jefferson County

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

### MIDDLE FORK, RED RIVER Powell County

Within the Natural Bridge State Park, all trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be

used during this period.

### MILL CREEK LAKE Powell and Wolfe counties

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

### NEW HAVEN OPTIMIST LAKE Nelson County

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily creel limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit, no minimum size limit.

### NOLIN RIVER LAKE

Lake upper boundary extended to the Wheelers Mill Road bridge in the Nolin River arm and to the Hwy. 728 bridge in the Bacon Creek arm (formerly defined as first riffle upstream in Bacon Creek and Nolin River).

- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch size limit, except 1 fish in the daily limit or 2 in the possession limit may be less than 15 inches long.

### OHIO RIVER – see also, “Bordering Waters” page 15

- **Walleye, Sauger and their Hybrids:** no minimum size limit, 10 fish daily limit, singly or combined.
- **White Bass, Yellow Bass, Striped Bass and their Hybrids:** 30 fish daily

limit, only 4 fish in daily limit may be 15 inches or longer.

### OTTER CREEK Meade County

All trout caught in Fort Knox Military Reservation and in Otter Creek Park from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period. Fort Knox Military Reservation requires the purchase of a \$10 permit to fish and is closed to fishing on Tuesdays. Anglers must check-in with the Fort Knox Hunt Control Office at (502) 624-2712 before each day's fishing. There is a one-mile section of Otter Creek as posted by signs in Fort Knox Military Reservation where trout fishing is open to statewide regulations.

### PAINT CREEK Johnson County

16-inch minimum size limit and **1 fish daily creel limit on trout from the KY 40 bridge downstream to the first U.S. 460 bridge crossing and only artificial baits shall be used.**

### PAINTSVILLE LAKE

- **Largemouth Bass:** 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass caught between 12 and 15 inches in length must be released immediately.
- **Smallmouth Bass:** 18-inch minimum size limit.

## Kentucky's largest salamander: Eastern Hellbender

- Can grow up to 24" long
- Completely aquatic
- Not aggressive or poisonous
- Long lived (up to 30 years)



Kentucky Fish and Wildlife is very interested in all locality records for the eastern hellbender. If you see this giant salamander, please e-mail John MacGregor ([john.macgregor@ky.gov](mailto:john.macgregor@ky.gov)) or Greg Lipps ([greglipps@aol.com](mailto:greglipps@aol.com)) with locality information and a photograph, if possible.

### **PARCHED CORN CREEK** **Wolfe County**

Only artificial baits with single hook shall be used. **Brook Trout** must be immediately released.

### **PEABODY WMA LAKES**

In addition to a fishing license, a \$15.00 user permit is required of persons age 16 and over while on Peabody WMA. Permits can be purchased where fishing licenses are sold. Fishing open Mar. 16 - Oct. 14 on Goose, Island and South Lake, all other lakes open year-round.

### **PENNYRILE LAKE** **Christian County**

- **Largemouth Bass:** 12 to 15-inch protective slot limit. All largemouth bass between 12 and 15 inches in length must be immediately released.

### **PIKEVILLE CITY LAKE** **Pike County**

- **Largemouth Bass:** All largemouth bass caught must be immediately released.

### **POOR FORK and its tributaries** **Letcher County**

Downstream to the first crossing of Hwy. 932, only artificial baits with single hook shall be used. **Brook Trout** must be immediately released.

### **REBA LAKE** **Madison County**

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily creel limit.

### **ROCK CREEK** **McCreary County**

From Bell Farm Bridge upstream to Tennessee state line, all trout caught from October 1 through March 31 must be immediately released and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

### **ROUGH RIVER LAKE**

- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit except 1 fish in the daily creel limit or 2 in the possession limit may be less than 15 inches long.

### **SHANTY HOLLOW LAKE** **Warren County**

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Channel Catfish:** 12-inch minimum size limit.

### **SHILLALAH CREEK** **Bell County**

Outside the Cumberland Gap National Park as posted, only artificial baits with single hook shall be used. **Brook Trout** must be immediately released.

### **SPORTSMAN'S LAKES** **Franklin County**

Fishing during daylight hours only. Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited. See FINs lakes at the beginning of the special regulations section for daily creel and minimum size limits.

### **SPURLINGTON LAKE** **Taylor County**

Possession or use of shad for bait is prohibited.

### **SWIFT CAMP CREEK** **Clifty Wilderness, Wolfe County**

All trout caught from October 1 through May 31 shall be released immediately and only artificial baits shall be used during this period.

### **SYMPSON LAKE** **Nelson County**

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

### **TAYLORSVILLE LAKE**

Lake upper boundary extended to Dry Dock Road on Salt River (formerly defined as first riffle upstream in Salt River).

- **Crappie:** 9-inch minimum size limit, 15 fish daily creel limit.
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.
- **Blue and Channel Catfish:** 15-fish daily creel limit. 1 fish of the daily creel limit may be longer than 25 inches.

### **TAYLORSVILLE LAKE WMA** **PONDS**

- **Largemouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

- **Channel Catfish:** 4 fish daily creel limit.

### **TENNESSEE RIVER from Kentucky Lake Dam downstream to confluence with Ohio River**

The area from Kentucky Dam to the new U.S. 62 bridge will be open to snagging 24 hours per day from January 1 through May 31. From June 1 through December 31, the area is open to snagging from sunset to sunrise. The area of the Tennessee River from the new U.S. 62 bridge to the I-24 bridge is closed to snagging year round. The area from the I-24 bridge to the confluence with the Ohio River is open to snagging year round. There is now a daily creel limit of 8 fish in aggregate and shall not exceed the daily creel limit for any sport fish in which the creel limit is under 8 fish per day. Snagging must cease if any sport fish daily creel limit is attained. All fish snagged including paddlefish, except shad or herring, must be taken into possession and not culled. Snagged fish must not be disposed on the bank. This action is littering and subject to a fine. Snagged paddlefish or their roe cannot be sold. Gigging is prohibited in the Tennessee River below Kentucky Dam. See the Gigging and Snagging section on page 6 for more information.

- **Sauger:** 14-inch minimum size limit.

### **WOOD CREEK LAKE** **Laurel County**

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.

### **YATESVILLE LAKE**

- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass:** 15-inch minimum size limit.



## OTHER SPECIES

### BULLFROGS

(301 KAR 1:082)

The taking season for bullfrogs opens at noon on the third Friday in May ([May 20, 2011](#)) and runs through Oct. 31. If a gun or bow and arrow are used, a hunting license is required. If frogs are taken by pole and line, a fishing license is required. If frogs are taken by gig or by hand, then either hunting or fishing license is valid. The daily noon-to-noon creel limit for bullfrogs is 15. The possession limit is 30.

### TURTLES

(301 KAR 1:058)

Anglers may take snapping turtles (except alligator snapping turtles) and softshell turtles year round by the same methods legal for taking rough fish species. Commercial fishing gear may not be used to take turtles. A hunting license is required when taking turtles by gun or by bow and arrow. Otherwise a fishing license is required.

Turtle traps may be one of two kinds: either a barrel or drum with a tilting trigger board or a floating log raft with an enclosed twine or wire mesh bag. Turtle traps must be inspected daily. All turtles must be removed daily except one decoy turtle may remain. Any other species (except soft shelled and snapping turtles) caught in a turtle trap must be released unharmed.

### GRASS CARP HARVEST PROHIBITED

(301 KAR 1:201)

Harvesting grass carp is prohibited in any lake owned or managed by

the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Anglers who catch a grass carp from one of these lakes must immediately return the fish to the water where it was caught. Grass carp are used to control aquatic vegetation. Signs are posted at applicable lakes.

### LIVE BAIT FOR PERSONAL USE

(301 KAR 1:130, 1:122)

No live fish, live bait fish or live bait organisms that are not native or established in Kentucky waters shall be bought, sold, possessed, imported, or in any way used or released into waters of this Commonwealth. Blueback herring are not native to Kentucky and may not be imported or possessed in this state.

Holders of sport fishing licenses may take live bait from public waters and may possess up to 500 minnows, 500 crayfish, 25 spring lizards or dusky salamanders, 5 frogs (other than bullfrogs), 100 tadpoles, 100 native lampreys, 500 other aquatic invertebrate organisms other than mussels, 500 shad (except on lakes where shad possession/use is prohibited), 500 herring and any number of unshelled Asiatic clams. A commercial license is required to take live bait from public waters open to commercial fishing for the purpose of selling.

Regardless of size or how obtained, it is illegal to use any sport fish for bait (except redear sunfish less than 6 inches long). (Sport fish species listed on page 5). Minnows are defined as all fish, except sport fish species, less than 6 inches long. Also, see page 24 for a description of fish species protected in Kentucky under the Endangered Species Act – these

fish species **shall not be taken for any use**. Bluegills are not sport fish and may be taken for bait as described above.

Live bait may be taken with the following gear:

- **Dip Nets:** Maximum size of 3 feet in diameter is legal in the Ohio, Tennessee and Mississippi rivers, Cumberland River below Barkley Dam, Kentucky River below Lock No. 14, and all lakes having 1,000 or more surface acres.
- **Minnow Traps:** Maximum legal size statewide: 3 feet long, 18 inches in diameter, 1-inch openings for catching.
- **Seines:** Maximum legal size statewide: 10 feet long, 4 feet deep, ¼-inch mesh. Maximum legal size in the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and Kentucky and Barkley lakes: 30 feet long, 6 feet deep and ¼-inch bar mesh.
- **Sport Cast Nets:** Maximum sport cast net size is 20 feet in diameter with maximum 1-inch bar mesh statewide except in the following waters. Sport cast nets prohibited in: 1) lakes having fewer than 500 surface acres, 2) any of the streams and tailwaters listed in the “Trout Waters” section of this guide, 3) tributaries of the Cumberland River between Wolf Creek Dam and the Tennessee state line except Crocus and Marrowbone creeks where sport cast mesh size must be made of 1-inch bar mesh only, 4) from the mouth of Crocus Creek upstream for 50 yards.

All sport fish incidentally taken while capturing live bait with seines, dip nets or cast nets must be released immediately unharmed into the water.

## KNOW YOUR TURTLES!



**COMMON SNAPPING TURTLE**  
Legal to take



**ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE**  
Illegal to take





# LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES

LICENSE / PERMIT	Resident	Nonresident
<b>Annual Hunting</b> (deer, elk or turkey)	\$20.00	\$130.00
<b>Annual Fishing</b>	\$20.00	\$50.00
<b>Joint Husband/Wife Annual Fishing</b>	\$36.00	Not available
<b>1-Day Fishing</b>	\$7.00	\$10.00
<b>Nonresident 7-Day Fishing</b>	Not available	\$30.00
<b>Nonresident 15-Day Fishing</b>	Not available	\$40.00
<b>Trout Permit</b>	\$10.00	\$10.00
<b>1-Day Hunting</b> (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	\$7.00	\$10.00
<b>5-Day Hunting</b> (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	Not available	\$40.00
<b>Annual Youth Hunting</b> (ages 12-15 only)	\$5.00	\$5.00
<b>Annual Combination Hunting/Fishing</b>	\$30.00	Not available
<b>Senior/Disabled Combination Hunting/Fishing*</b>	\$5.00	Not available
<b>Deer Permit</b> (statewide) (two deer)	\$30.00	\$60.00
<b>Youth</b> (ages 12-15) <b>Deer Permit</b> (one deer)	\$10.00	\$10.00
<b>Bonus Antlerless Deer Permit</b> (two deer)	\$15.00	\$15.00
<b>Spring Turkey Permit</b> (statewide) (two turkeys)	\$30.00	\$60.00
<b>Youth</b> (ages 12-15) <b>Turkey Permit</b> (one turkey, spring or fall)	\$10.00	\$10.00
<b>Fall Turkey Permit</b> (statewide)(four turkeys)	\$30.00	\$60.00
<b>Kentucky Waterfowl Permit</b>	\$15.00	\$15.00
<b>Migratory Bird Permit</b>	\$10.00	\$10.00
<b>Annual Trapping</b>	\$20.00	\$130.00
<b>Annual Landowner/Tenant Trapping</b>	\$10.00	Not available
<b>Annual Youth</b> (ages 12-15) <b>Trapping</b>	\$5.00	Not available
<b>Sportsman's License*</b> (Includes combination hunting/fishing, statewide deer permit, spring and fall turkey permits, state waterfowl permit and trout permit.)	\$95.00	Not available
<b>Youth</b> (ages 12-15) <b>Sportsman's License*</b> (Includes youth hunting license, youth deer permit and youth turkey permit. Fishing license, waterfowl permit and trout permit not required for youth.)	\$25.00	\$25.00
<b>Elk Lottery Application</b> (deadline April 30; available at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$10.00	\$10.00
<b>Youth WMA Elk Lottery</b> (deadline April 30; available at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$10.00	\$10.00
<b>Elk Quota Hunt Permit</b> (if drawn)	\$30.00	\$365.00
<b>Out-of-Zone Elk Permit</b>	\$30.00	\$365.00
<b>Bear Permit</b>	\$30.00	Not available
<b>Peabody WMA User Permit</b>	\$15.00	\$15.00
<b>Land Between the Lakes (LBL) Hunter Use Permit</b>	\$20.00	\$20.00
<b>Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit</b> (available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$5.00	\$5.00
<b>Federal Duck Stamp</b> (available at post offices)	\$15.00	\$15.00
<b>Shooting Preserve License</b> (available online at <a href="http://fw.ky.gov">fw.ky.gov</a> only)	\$5.00	\$5.00

\*Peabody and LBL permits, elk lottery application, elk quota hunt permit, out-of-zone elk permit, bear permit and federal duck stamp not included.

Annual licenses and permits are valid from the date of purchase through the last day in February. **New licenses are required annually March 1.** (A 1- or 5-day hunting license is valid only for the period shown on the license.)

Resident and nonresident youth under the age of 12 are not required to purchase hunting licenses or permits (except the elk lottery application, elk quota hunt permit, out-of-zone elk permit and resident bear permit).

## HOW TO BUY LICENSES AND PERMITS

### GETTING A LICENSE IN PERSON

Licenses and permits can be purchased throughout the Commonwealth. Most Walmart, Kmart, county court clerk offices and outdoor sporting goods stores sell licenses. License vendor locations are listed at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). Licenses and permits can also be purchased on this website, or toll-free at 1-877-598-2401.

### GETTING A LICENSE BY PHONE

Licenses and permits can be purchased by phone 24 hours a day. It is the caller's responsibility to know what type of license or permit is needed before calling. Operators should NOT be relied upon to explain licensing requirements. If you are unsure what license or permit you need, refer to previous portions of this guide, or contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549.

All Kentucky hunting and fishing licenses and permits, except a disabled license, elk lottery application and all youth

#### By phone:

##### Call toll-free 1-877-598-2401

Persons purchasing by phone:

1. Must use Visa, Mastercard, Discover or e-check;
2. Will be charged a small fee;
3. Must provide their name, address, date of birth and Social Security number;
4. Will be issued a paper license/permit by mail (except short-term licenses);
5. Will be issued an authorization number which serves as a license/permit until paper license/permit is issued; and
6. Must have the authorization number in addition to a picture ID while fishing, if they have not yet received their paper license/permit in the mail.

licenses and permits, can be purchased over the phone for a small fee.

#### By Internet:

##### Visit [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov)

Persons purchasing online:

1. Must use Visa, Mastercard or Discover;
2. Must provide their name, address, date of birth and Social Security number;
3. Must carry proof of their license/permit in addition to a picture ID while fishing; and
4. Will not receive a paper license/permit in the mail.

### GETTING A LICENSE ONLINE

All Kentucky hunting and fishing licenses and permits, except a **Joint Husband/Wife Fishing License**, can be purchased through the secured Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website. Replacement licenses can be printed free at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov).

## LICENSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS

### License expiration

Annual license/permit authorization numbers are valid from the date of purchase through the last day in February. New licenses are required annually March 1. A temporary fishing license is valid for the period shown on the license. (301) KAR 3:022

### WHO NEEDS A LICENSE?

(KRS 150.010, 150.170)

All persons must fill out and carry the proper license and permit to fish any Kentucky waters **except the following** (for permit requirements see "Trout Permit" on this page):

- The resident owner of farmlands, his spouse and dependent children may fish on their land without a license. Tenants, their spouses and dependent children may fish without a license on farmlands where they live and work.
- Resident servicemen on furlough for more than three days may fish state-

wide without a license, but must carry proper identification and papers showing furlough status.

- Residents and nonresidents ages 15 and younger.
- Persons fishing on the first Saturday and Sunday in June (**June 4-5, 2011**) during Free Fishing Days are not required to have a license or permit.
- Persons fishing within the boundaries of Mammoth Cave National Park.

A resident is anyone who has established permanent and legal residence in Kentucky and resided here at least 30 days immediately prior to applying for a license. Full-time students enrolled in an educational institution for at least a six-month term and service personnel on permanent assignment in Kentucky are also classified as residents. All others are considered non-residents for licensing purposes.

### TROUT PERMIT

(301 KAR 1:201)

Unless license exempt, anglers who intend to keep trout must have a trout permit (\$10). A trout permit is included

with the resident senior/disabled combination license and resident sportsman's license. All licensed anglers fishing the portion of the Cumberland River from Wolf Creek Dam to the Tennessee state line, its tributaries up to the first riffle and all of Hatchery Creek are required to possess a trout permit. (See the Trout section in this guide for details and for a complete list of waters where trout are present.)

### RESIDENT SPORTSMAN'S LICENSE (SAVE \$50!)

Available to Kentucky residents only, the Sportsman's License includes a combination hunting and fishing license, spring turkey permit, fall turkey permit, statewide deer permit, state waterfowl permit (which also covers dove and other migratory bird hunting) and trout permit. Peabody and LBL permits, trapping license, an elk lottery application, elk quota hunt permit (if drawn), out-of-zone elk permit, bear permit and bonus deer permits must be purchased separately. A federal duck stamp (available at post offices) is required for waterfowl hunting.

**PAY LAKES**

(KRS 150.660)

A person fishing in a pay lake licensed by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources needs either a Kentucky fishing license or a free permit issued by the operator. If the lake is not licensed by the operator, anglers need a valid Kentucky fishing license.

**FREE FISHING DAYS**

(301 KAR 1:210)

Every year Kentucky offers free fishing days the first weekend in June (**June 4-5, 2011**). On free fishing days no license (including the Kentucky trout permit) is required of residents or non-residents to fish any Kentucky waters. All other fishing regulations remain in effect. Free fishing days are offered to promote fishing and National Fishing Week.

*Carry proof*

Holders of Disabled Combination Licenses must carry both the license and authorization card while hunting. Once a person who qualifies for this license reaches age 65, he or she is considered a senior for licensing purposes, and no longer needs to follow the process of obtaining a disability license authorization card.

**Q: How long is a disability authorization card valid?**

**A:** The disability authorization card is good for 3 years (check the expiration date on your card). **Every 3 years**, you must provide updated paperwork (following the instructions to the right) and get a new card.

Those who already have a disability authorization card through the Veteran's Administration, Railroad Retirement Board or Office of Personnel Management may call 1-800-310-1873 to get a new card.

**RESIDENT SENIOR AND DISABLED LICENSES**

The following are eligible to purchase the \$5 Senior or Disabled Combination Hunting and Fishing License (which includes the same license and permits as the Resident Sportsman's License, plus bonus antlerless-only deer permits):

- Kentucky residents 65 years of age or older.
- Kentucky residents certified totally and permanently disabled by the Federal Social Security Administration, a state Workers Compensation Board, the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System or the United States Railroad Retirement Board.
- Kentucky resident employees of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, declared totally and permanently disabled by a recognized authority.
- Kentucky resident veterans at least 50% disabled as the result of a service-connected disability.

Seniors need only show proof of age and residency to purchase this license. Persons with disabilities listed above must first obtain a disability authorization card from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

**To obtain a disability license authorization card:**

If your disability is through the:

- **Federal Social Security Administration:** Contact your local Social Security office and request a form showing your name, address, Social Security number and date of birth, which states that you are disabled and drawing benefits. Send form to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- **Veteran's Administration:** Contact your local VA office and request a letter that verifies you are at least 50% disabled as a result of a service-connected disability. Send letter to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- **State Worker's Compensation Board:** Request an application from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife, fill it out and send it to the State Worker's Compensation Board.
- **United States Railroad Retirement Board:** Contact the Board and request a letter stating you are 100% totally and permanently disabled. Send letter to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- **Kentucky Teacher Retirement System:** Contact the Teacher Retirement System and request written documentation stating you are on disability retirement. Send documentation to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- **United States Office of Personnel Management:** Contact the federal Office of Personnel Management and obtain certification of employment and documentation of being 100% disabled. Send documentation to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

Once the proper documentation is processed, applicants will receive their authorization card by mail. The authorization card is not a license. It must be presented to the license seller, or the authorization number entered online, at the time of purchase.

License vendors cannot sell a disability license using an expired authorization card.

Senior and Disabled Combination Licenses are valid through the end of February like any other license. If you lose your card, you may contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at the above address for a replacement.

*Contacting us*

Except for those who qualify for a Disability License through Worker's Compensation, mail or fax your disability certification to:

KDFWR Disability License  
#1 Sportsman's Lane  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
FAX: (502) 564-9845

You may also bring the documentation in person to the department office in Frankfort at #1 Sportsman's Lane during business hours 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Monday - Friday.



## Lost licenses and permits

Persons who need a replacement license or permit have three options:

1. Print a replacement online at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov). Click on "Licenses & Permits," then the "Lost Your License?" tab.
2. Purchase the same type of license or permit from any license vendor, ask them for a license refund form (or print one at [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov)), fill it out and send it to: KDFWR Licensing, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. You will receive a refund minus a \$5 handling fee.
3. Send \$5, your name, address, date of birth and Social Security number, and which license(s) or permits you lost to: KDFWR Licensing, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. The department will replace the license/permit once verification of original purchase occurs. Replacement may take up to 3 weeks.



**Need fish** for your new or renovated pond? Visit [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) or call 1-800-858-1549 for information about Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's farm pond stocking program.

**Q:** If I have my pond stocked by the KDFWR, do I have to let the public fish it?

**A:** No. The deadline to apply for the pond stocking program is September 1 annually and there is a fee.

## BORDERING WATERS

All Kentucky anglers who fish reciprocal waters must have a valid Kentucky fishing license.

### OHIO RIVER FISHING (KRS 150.170)

An angler with a Kentucky fishing license may fish the entire main stem of the Ohio River from a boat, or a bordering state's bank without buying the other state's license (bordering states include Illinois, Indiana and Ohio).

This does not apply if fishing a bordering state's embayments or tributaries, which begin at a straight line between opposite points where the tributary or embayment meets the main stem of the river.

Anglers fishing from a bordering state's bank must follow the size and creel limits of the state where the angler is located. For example, a Kentucky licensed angler can stand on the Indiana bank and fish the main stem of the Ohio River without an Indiana fishing license, but must abide by Indiana's size and creel limits. However, anglers fishing from a boat must follow the size and creel limits of the state in which the angler is licensed.

Reminder: snagging is not permitted for any fish species on the Indiana side or in any Indiana waters of the Ohio River.

### MISSISSIPPI RIVER (KRS 150.170)

Anglers licensed in Kentucky may fish Missouri portions of the Mississippi River without buying a Missouri fishing license. Each state recognizes the sport fishing licenses and permits of the other state on the Mississippi River. The river is defined as the main channel and immediate side or secondary channels and chutes. It does not include oxbow or floodplain lakes or any tributary streams. A tributary is delineated by the straight line between opposite points where the tributary connects with the main body of the Mississippi River. Furthermore, the river does not include backwaters that extend onto the floodplain or tributaries when the river exceeds 33 feet at the gauging station at Cairo, Illinois.

Sport fishing license or permit holders may fish from, or attach any

device or equipment to land along the river under the jurisdiction of the other state. Landowner permission is required to fish from the bank.

Sport fishing license holders shall abide by the regulations in the state in whose waters they are fishing and when fishing in waters they are not licensed to fish, shall comply with the most restrictive regulation.

### DALE HOLLOW LAKE

Anglers may use either a Tennessee or a Kentucky sport fishing license while fishing in the Wolf River arm of Dale Hollow Lake. This includes the Illwill Creek embayment beginning at a line crossing the Wolf River at its mouth where it joins the Obey River and the main part of the lake.

Anglers must obey the regulations of the state in which they are licensed. Kentucky residents must have a Kentucky license.

### KENTUCKY LAKE

On Kentucky Lake, anglers with either a valid Kentucky or Tennessee sport fishing license may fish from Eggner's Ferry Bridge (U.S. 68 and Hwy. 80) in Kentucky south to the Governor Ned McWhorter Bridge (U.S. 79 and Hwy. 76) in Tennessee. This includes all embayments and tributaries, except the Blood River embayment in Kentucky. Anglers must abide by the fishing regulations of the state in which they are fishing.

### BIG SOUTH FORK OF THE CUMBERLAND RIVER

Anglers may use either a Tennessee or a Kentucky sport fishing license while fishing that portion of the Big South Fork from the Leatherwood Ford bridge (Hwy. 297) in Tennessee to the Hwy. 92 bridge at Yamacraw, Kentucky.

Anglers must obey the regulations of the state in which they are licensed. Kentucky residents must have a Kentucky license.

### OTHER BORDERING WATERS

On all other bordering waters, boundaries are set by state lines. Obey the laws of the state in which you are fishing.

## FISHING METHODS

*No firearms*

Fish may not be taken with use of a firearm.

**SPORT FISHING TROT LINES, JUGGING and SET LINES (LIMB LINES)**

(301 KAR 1:410; KRS 150.010)

A sport fishing trotline is a line with no more than 50 single or multi-barbed baited hooks that must be at least 18 inches apart. A sport fishing trotline must be set at least three feet below the water's surface. Jugging is fishing with a single baited line attached to any floating object. A jug line may have no more than one single or multi-barbed hook. A set line is a line with one single or multi-barbed hook. It may be attached to a tree limb, tree trunk, bank pole or other stationary object on the bank of a stream or impoundment.

One person may use no more than two sport fishing trotlines or 50 jug lines or 25 set lines at any one time. Each boat may not use more than 50 jug lines, but each occupant may use two sportfishing trotlines or 25 set lines. Each sport fishing trotline, jug line or set line must be: 1) **permanently labeled** with the name and address of the user; 2) baited, checked and all fish removed at least once every 24 hours; 3) **removed** from water, bank or tree when fishing ceases.

**Prohibited Areas:** Sport fishing trotlines, jug lines or set lines may not be used within 200 yards below any dam. Sport fishing trotlines, jug lines or set lines are not allowed in Department owned/managed lakes having less than 500 surface acres, except those located on Ballard and Boatwright WMAs. No sport fishing trotlines are allowed

within 700 yards below Kentucky Dam, the area between Barkley Dam and U.S. 62 bridge, or below the following Ohio River dams from the face of the dam to the end of the outer lock wall: Smithland, Newburgh, Cannelton, Markland, Meldahl and Greenup; McAlpine downstream to the K&I railroad bridge; J.T. Meyers (Uniontown) to the end of the outer lock wall and that portion of the split channel around the southern part of Wabash Island from the fixed weir dam to the first dike.

**GIGGING AND SNAGGING FISH**

(301 KAR 1:410, 1:082; KRS 150.010)

Gigging means spearing or impaling fish on any pronged or barbed instrument attached to the end of any rigid object. Snagging means taking fish or other aquatic animals by a rapid drawing motion (rather than enticement by bait) using a hand-held pole and attached line with a single or one multiple fish hook. Only one single or treble hook may be attached to the line. Except, in Green River, Rolling Fork River and their tributaries, up to five single or treble hooks may be used for snagging. A rod legal for snagging must be equipped with line, guides and a reel and shall not exceed 7½ feet in length, including the handle.

The statewide season for gigging and/or snagging rough fish is from February 1 through May 10. It is illegal to possess a gig on a stream or lake or in a boat from November 1 through January 31. A person may gig or snag fish from the bank of a stream during the day or night. Gigging and snagging is not legal from a boat or platform. Gigging is legal from a boat on lakes 500 surface acres or larger and only during daylight hours.

**There is a statewide limit of 2 paddlefish for either gigging or snagging. All gigged or snagged paddlefish must be taken into possession and cannot be culled or released. Snagging anglers must cease gigging or snagging once they attain the 2 paddlefish daily creel limit. It is illegal to sell paddlefish or their roe taken by sportfish snagging methods. No daily limits on any other rough fish.** Regardless of condition, all sport fish taken by gigging and snagging must be immediately returned to

**Q: May you clean your fish while on the water?**

**A:** Anglers shall not remove any part of the head or tail of any fish for which there is a size or creel limit until finished fishing and off the water.

the water.

Persons may gig rough fish through the ice any time the surface is frozen thick enough to stand upon. The gigger must gig while supported by the ice. There are special snagging regulations for the Kentucky Lake tailwater (Tennessee River) and the Lake Barkley tailwater (Cumberland River). Please refer to the Special Fishing Regulations section of this guide before snagging on these waters.

**Gigging and snagging are prohibited in the following waters or areas:**

- Cave Run Lake including all tributaries up to the first riffle (The location of the first riffle may change depending on water level).
  - Cumberland River, below Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the Tennessee line including Hatchery Creek and all tributaries for ½ mile upstream of their confluence with the Cumberland River.
  - Within 200 yards of a dam, except below Kentucky Dam.
  - Cumberland River, below Barkley Dam downstream to the U.S. 62 bridge.
  - Tennessee River, below Kentucky Dam from U.S. 62 bridge to I-25 bridge.
  - Middle Fork of Kentucky River from Buckhorn Lake downstream to the Breathitt County line.
  - Rough River, below Rough River Dam to KY 54 bridge
  - In the Tennessee River below Kentucky Dam, gigging prohibited year-round.
- For specific regulations for gigging and snagging in the Cumberland River below Barkley Dam and in the Tennessee River below Kentucky Lake refer to Special Regulations on pages 8 and 11 of this guide.

**Q: How many fishing poles are you allowed to have while fishing?**

**A:** As many as you want. There is no limit on the number of fishing poles (or fishing rods) an angler may use at one time.

**TICKLING AND NOODLING**

(301 KAR 1:410; KRS 150.010)

The tickling and noodling (hand grabbing) season for rough fish is June 1 through August 31, during daylight hours only. Tickling and noodling means taking fish directly by hand, or with the aid of a handled hook. These methods are permitted in all waters. The daily creel limit is 15 rough fish, no more than 5 of which can be catfish.

**BOW FISHING**

(301 KAR 1:410)

Rough fish may be taken year-round by bow and arrow with line attached. Sport fish may not be taken with a bow and arrow. Bow anglers may use a long bow, recurve bow, crossbow or compound

bow. Arrows must have a barbed or retractable style point that has a line attached for retrieval. Catfish have a daily creel limit of 5 (in aggregate) and paddlefish have a daily creel limit of 2. Bow fisherman may fish within 200 yards of a dam, except by boat in boat restricted areas. Bow fishing is prohibited on the Cumberland River below Wolf Creek Dam downstream to the Tennessee line, including Hatchery Creek and all tributaries for ½ mile upstream of their confluence with the Cumberland River.

Persons using a bow and arrow for fishing must have the appropriate fishing license and may take rough fish from bank or boat. There is no limit on other rough fish. Bow anglers cannot sell paddlefish or their roe taken by bow and ar-

row. Paddlefish and catfish taken by bow and arrow must be taken into immediate possession and cannot be culled. Fish taken by bow must not be discarded on the bank. Bank disposal is littering and subject to a fine.

**SPEAR FISHING**

(301 KAR 1:410)

Underwater spearing of rough fish with hand-held or mechanically propelled spear is permitted year-round, but only in lakes having 1,000 surface acres or more. All participants in this sport must be submerged while spear fishing. Only rough fish may be taken and the appropriate fishing license is required. The daily limit is 15 fish of which only 5 may be catfish.



## FISH HABITAT RESTORATION

**A NATIONAL ISSUE - A KENTUCKY INITIATIVE**

THE GOAL



Fish require healthy habitats. Degraded habitat translates into fewer fish and fishing opportunities. Kentucky has over 90,000 miles of streams and rivers. Many of these streams are in need of restoration and would qualify for habitat restoration funding.

KDFWR administers a new multi-agency program with funds for stream restoration and enhancement. For more information contact the Stream Restoration Program, # 1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601 or call 1-800-858-1549.



THE PROBLEM